

From: Larry E. Rhoads
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 7:48pm
Subject: Ability to purchase optional Operating Systems

My concern is that this settlement does not provide any remedy to the many years which Microsoft has controlled the PC distribution in relationship to consumer's choice for the operating systems available on a single PC. For example not even IBM could sell me a PC which had a dual boot option where I could order Windows and Linux or any other combination of other operating systems. The salesman response is that no one ever asked for that option even though I had just made that request. When you pushed the issue it was then said it was not done. No one would say that they didn't have a choice.

Microsoft is still not playing on a level field in relation to the consumer where their controlling tactics have now left no viable alternatives in many areas. It is great to get free software for a year or two but then it is not much fun to find that this is the only version of that type of software now available. Then you find that to continue to use that software you are forced to buy a new license at a price which is now more than three times what it should be. Most companies can't use the free trick because they don't have the level of control or resources to destroy another competitor. Microsoft has and still does.

I don't think this settlement goes far enough and the level of oversight is not nearly strong enough to provide an effective punishment or deterrent.

Sincerely
Larry Rhoads

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